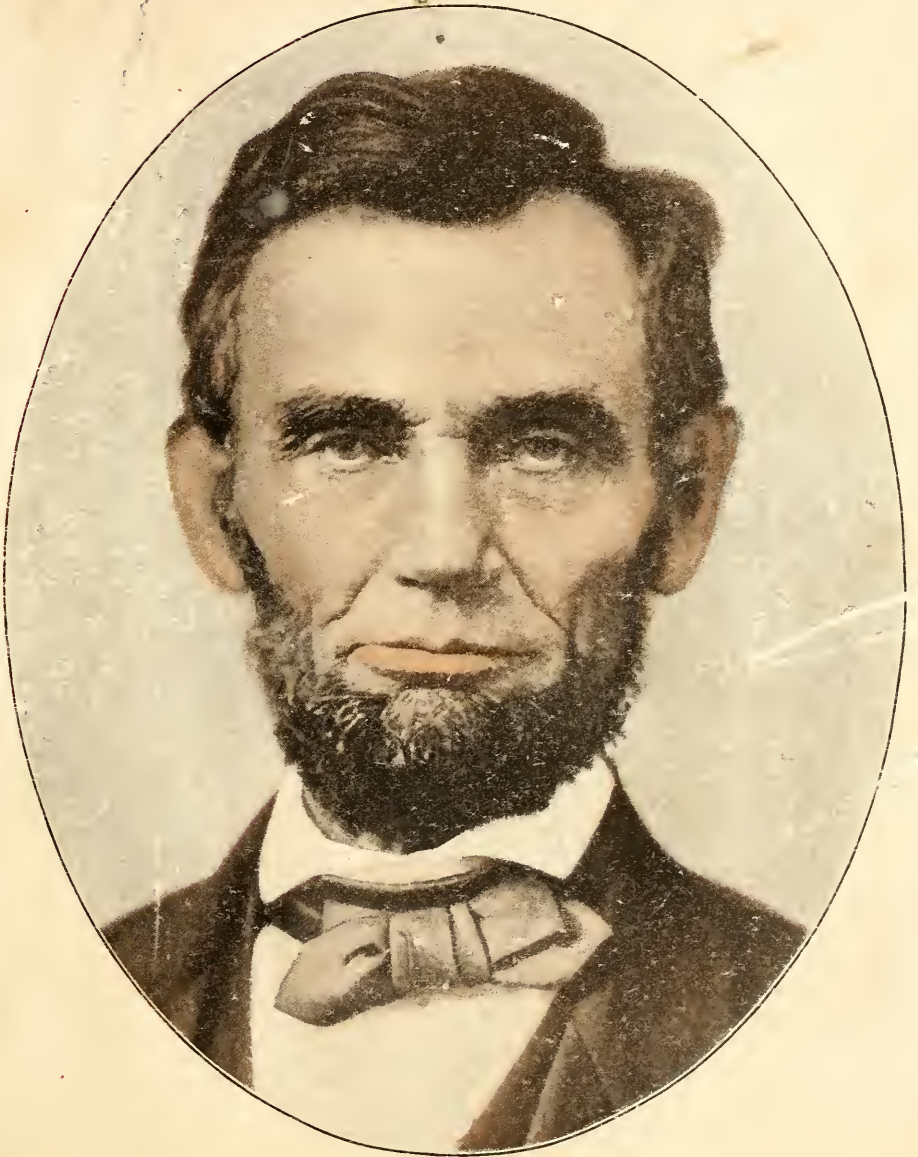


YOUNG FOLKS SERIES

Child's
Life of Abraham Lincoln



BY
MARY MARGRET MacEACHEN



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Child's Life *of* Abraham Lincoln

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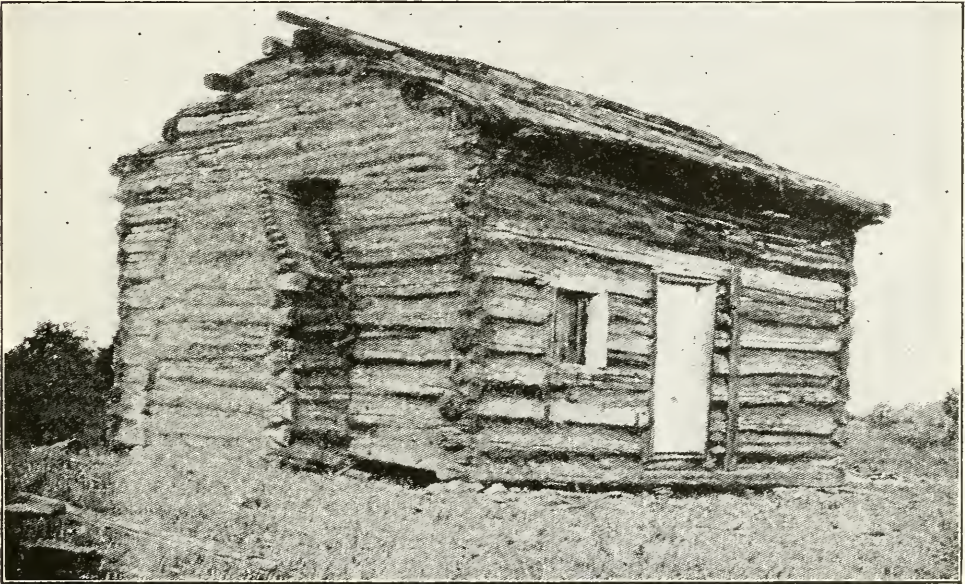
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CHAPTER I

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

A hundred years ago the buffalo roamed the fields of Kentucky. Wild beasts prowled in the forests. There were Indians everywhere. The whole country was a wilderness.



THE BIRTHPLACE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

In the heart of this wilderness was a tiny log hut. There was only one room in it. It was built of rough logs. There were large cracks between the logs. There was only a hole for the window. It was covered with oiled paper instead of glass. There were no doors. But there was an opening for a door. A bearskin hung over the opening.

In this hut in the wilderness of Kentucky a baby boy was born. This baby was Abraham Lincoln. He was born in the year 1809.

Thomas Lincoln was the baby's father. Nancy Hanks Lincoln was the baby's mother. Thomas Lincoln had no chance to learn to read and write. There were no schools in Kentucky then. He had to work hard all his life. He was very poor. He married Nancy Hanks.

Nancy Hanks was gentle and refined. She was a beautiful woman. She had dark hair and dark gray eyes. The boy Abraham had hair and eyes like his mother's.

Mrs. Lincoln could read and write. She tried to teach her husband to read and write too. The Lincolns had a hard time to make a living. Mrs. Lincoln took good care of the little home. They had another child besides Abraham. Her name was Sarah. She was two years older than Abraham was.

The Lincolns had no stove in their little hut. They had a large fireplace at one end of the room. They cooked there

The bed was made of boards fastened to the wall. They had no quilts nor sheets nor blankets. The coverings were the hides of animals.

They had a few dishes. These dishes were of tin and pewter. They drank from gourds. They used gourds for dishes too.

The floor was the bare ground. It was worn hard and smooth. Abraham's father shot bear and deer. This was their meat. He cleared a little piece of ground. On this he raised corn and potatoes.

Mrs. Lincoln dearly loved her children. She always found time to teach them. She taught them to read and write. She read to them. She taught them to be good. She taught them to be kind and honest and gentle. She taught them to love God.

The children loved their mother. Abraham Lincoln never forgot what he learned at his mother's knee. He remembered her teachings as long as he lived.

Little Abe and his sister Sarah played together. They had no toys. They had no playmates. The nearest neighbor lived a mile away. All about them was a great forest. This was their playground.

Abraham learned to use a gun. One time he shot a wild turkey. He felt sorry for the poor thing after he had shot it. After that he never liked to hunt. He did not like to kill anything.

Mrs. Lincoln was too poor to buy clothes for her little boy. So she herself made his trousers. She made them from bear-skin. His little shirt was made from the hide of a wild animal. He had a cap. It was made from a coonskin. He had moccasins for shoes. These were made from deerskin. He had no stockings. In winter his little ankles were often blue with the cold.

Sometimes the family had nothing to eat but potatoes. And they often had to eat them raw. For they did not always have a fire. There were no matches in those days.

CHAPTER II

THE CHILDHOOD OF LINCOLN

At that time it was hard to get an education. There was a school only when someone came along who could teach. The teachers did not always know very much. The schoolhouse was built of rough logs. Clay was daubed in the chinks. The windows were covered with greased paper. Long pegs were driven into the wall. Boards were laid across these for desks. The seats were made of logs. There were no backs to them. There were no maps nor blackboards. There were few books.

The children learned to read and write and cipher. A teacher came to Kentucky for a few weeks. Mrs. Lincoln sent Abe and his sister Sarah.

Abe began to work when he was very young. When he was six years old he would chop spicewood. He would lug and tug it home. It made the firelight brighter. It gave out a pleasant smell. In the evenings his mother would read and talk to them by the firelight. Abe would cuddle close to her. He loved to listen to her. He loved his dear mother with all his manly little heart.

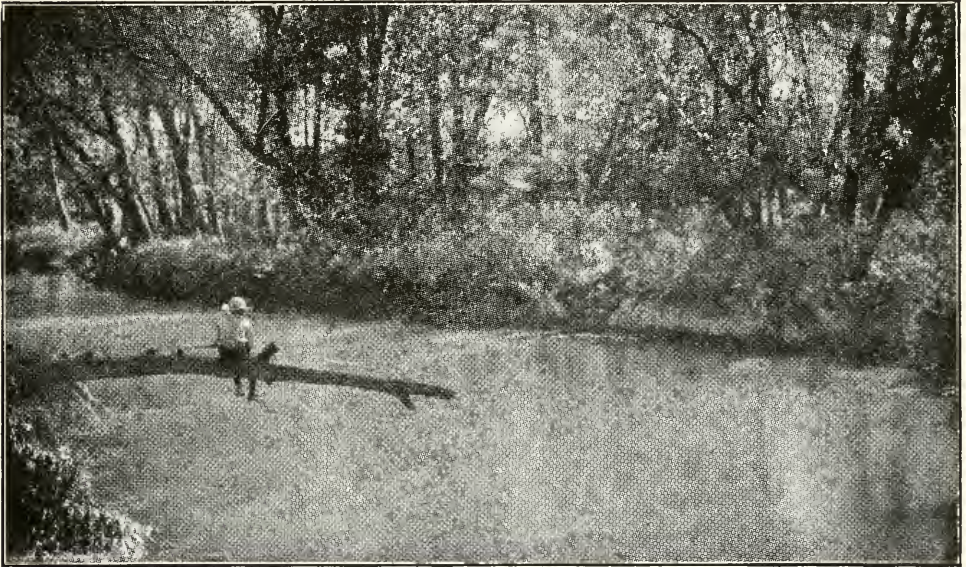
She wanted her little son to be a great, good man. She often told him: "It is not what you seem to others. It is what you are that counts. God knows and sees. You see and know in your little heart. I want you to be a great man. Only a good man can ever be great." Abraham never forgot these words.

She often told the children about their country. The War of 1812 was going on then. She told them about the brave soldiers who were fighting for the country.

One time Abe had been fishing. He fished all day. He caught five catfish and an eel. It was enough for supper. And he was hungry.

He was on his way home with his fish. A soldier came along. He talked to Abe. He said he was tired and hungry. Abe felt sorry for him. He gave the poor fellow all his fish.

He told his mother about it. She was glad. She was proud of her boy. Abe had only potatoes for his supper that night. But he was happy.



THE CREEK NEAR LINCOLN'S BIRTHPLACE

Thomas Lincoln was tired of Kentucky. He thought he could do better in Indiana. So when Abe was about seven years old they moved to Indiana. It was eighteen miles from the Ohio River.

Abe and his sister walked beside their father and mother. It took three days for them to travel the eighteen miles. They had to cut their way through the forest. Abe could use an ax well. He helped his father clear a path through the wilderness.

The farm Thomas Lincoln had chosen was covered with trees. He had to clear a place for a house. He cut down young saplings to build a shed. Abe helped his father. The

shed was closed on three sides. The fourth side was open. It was called an "open-faced camp." This shed sheltered the family for a year. It was very cold in winter. The snow and the rain often blew into it. The mother and children suffered from the cold.

Abe was only a child in years. But he knew what it meant to toil. He knew that they were poor. He must work to help. He could swing a woodman's ax with any man. He could plow and plant a field. He could make its crops. He could harvest and store its fruits. He could cook them for the table. He could run and jump and wrestle and swim. He was strong and fearless.

Indiana was a wild country. There were many Indians there. The county courthouse was built of logs. The settlers dressed in deerskin. The men always carried a gun and a long knife.

The farmer's implements were the ax, the rifle, the maul, the plow and the scythe.

For pins the women used a brier of the wild thorn. Tea was made from roots dug in the woods.

There was a salt "lick" in the creek near the Lincoln cabin. The deer came there to lick the salt. Thomas Lincoln often shot them. So the Lincolns had plenty of meat.

The Lincolns built a new log cabin. This had neither doors nor windows. There was no floor in it. There was not even a bearskin to hang up to keep out the sleet and rain.

There was only one room and a loft. Abraham slept in the loft. The stairs were pegs driven in the wall. His bed was made of leaves.

Mrs. Lincoln was not very strong. The hard life was too much for her. She became very sick. The nearest doctor was thirty-five miles away.

For days she lay upon her rough bed of poles and bark and leaves. Abraham sat beside her. He had always been good and kind to his mother. Now his little heart ached to help her.

Mrs. Lincoln grew worse. Her husband and children watched by her bedside. They could not save her. At last she was dying. Abraham was kneeling near her bed. He was sobbing as though his heart would break. His dying mother laid her hand on his head. She gave him her blessing. She told him to be good to his father and sister. She told him to love God. Then she talked to all of them. She told them to be good to one another. She told them to love and worship God.

Nancy Hanks Lincoln was dead. Her husband chopped down a pine tree. He cut it up into boards. He pegged these boards together. Thus he made a coffin for his dead wife. Little Abe watched the work with a breaking heart.

Then Thomas Lincoln dug a grave for his wife near their house. It was under a big sycamore tree. They laid her there. The sad husband and the little orphans cried bitterly.

From that time Abraham Lincoln made up his mind to be a good and noble man. He wanted always to remember the lessons he learned from his mother. As long as he lived he felt his love for his "angel mother." Long years afterward, he said: "All that I am, all that I expect to be, I owe to my sainted mother."

These were sad, lonely days for the Lincolns. Sarah and Abe tried to keep house.

A year later Thomas Lincoln brought a new wife to the lonely cabin. The new wife was a good, kind woman. She had three children of her own. These five children were like real brothers and sisters. They loved one another.

Tears came to Mrs. Lincoln's eyes when she saw Sarah and Abe. They were in rags. She scrubbed and cleaned them. She gave Abraham a linsey-woolsey shirt to take the place of his old deerskin shirt. She liked the children. She treated them like her own.

She made changes in the cabin too. She had her husband hang a door. She made him cut a window too. They covered the window with greased paper. They put a floor in the cabin.

Abraham loved his new mother. He was always good and kind to her. He loved her as long as he lived.

The stepmother loved the two orphans. She shared her heart with them. She always spoke kindly of them. She once said: "Abraham never gave me a cross word or a cross look. He never refused to do anything I asked him to do."

CHAPTER III

THE EARLY LIFE OF LINCOLN

In poverty and toil and sorrow the character of Lincoln was formed. He built his strong, noble character in youth.

Lincoln was slow to learn. But he learned everything well. He never gave up until he learned a thing well.

Mrs. Lincoln wanted the children to be educated. Whenever a teacher came she sent all of them to school. Abe was always glad to go to school. He studied hard. One time he had to walk nine miles to school. His way was only a deer path through the lonely woods. His lunch was a cold corn-meal pancake. He carried it in his pocket.

He studied every minute between his chores on Saturday. He studied all day on Sunday.

Abe Lincoln had no slate nor pencil. Paper was scarce and costly. So he used to work his arithmetic lessons on a wooden shovel with a piece of burnt stick. When he covered the shovel with problems he would scrape them off. The shovel would then be ready for more.

He made notes from his books. He wrote them with a burnt stick on the logs and boards of the cabin. Sometimes he would write with a stick on the white sand down by the creek bank. Dennis Hanks made him his first pen. He made it from a turkey buzzard's wing.

He soon reached the head of his class. He could "spell down" the whole school.

He learned to be a good writer. One of his old copybooks shows his writing. He wrote in it: "Good boys who to their books apply will be great men by and by."

Another of his copybooks has this written in it: "Abraham Lincoln, his hand and pen. He will be good but God knows when."

Abraham loved books. He read with great care. He read everything he could get. When he came to a part that he liked he wrote it down. He would write it on boards if he had no paper. Then he would commit it to memory. He would often repeat it. He kept a scrapbook. In this he kept everything that pleased him.

There were no libraries in the backwoods settlements. There were few books. Lincoln would walk miles to borrow a book.

A Mr. Crawford owned Weem's "Life of Washington." Lincoln borrowed the book. He read it with great pleasure. He took it up in the loft with him. He would read it till his candle burned out. He would then place the book between the logs of the cabin. In the morning as soon as it was light he would read it again. One night a heavy rain came. The book was wet through. Lincoln dried it as good as he could. Then he took it to Crawford. He told him what had happened. He had no money to pay for the book. He offered to work out the value of the book. Mr. Crawford made him work three days. He pulled fodder for three full days. Then he was allowed to keep the book.

Abe liked Washington. He often said that he wanted to be like him.

He read the Indiana Statutes. He read Aesop's "Fables" and "The Pilgrim's Progress." He read the lives of Benjamin Franklin and Henry Clay. He always memorized some parts of every book.

Abraham often worked for the other farmers. He gave all that he earned to his father.

About this time Abe's sister Sarah died. She and Abe were close companions. They loved each other dearly. Sarah was a good girl. Everyone liked her. She worked for the neighbors too. She was only nineteen years old when she died.

CHAPTER IV

THE YOUTH OF LINCOLN

Abraham Lincoln grew fast. At nineteen he was six feet four inches tall. He was wiry and strong. His complexion was dark. His face was shriveled up like an old man's. He looked sad when he was not smiling.

Abe Lincoln had become a tall, powerful man. He butchered hogs. He split rails. He flailed grain. But he had made up his mind. He would not always do that kind of work.

One time Abe attended court at Booneville. One of the lawyers made a fine speech. Abe thought it was grand. He was carried away with it. He made up his mind then to be a lawyer.

He went home. He studied hard. He dreamed of courts. He got up trials. He defended imaginary prisoners.

He often told his companions: "I shall be President of the United States some day." He wished to be good and great. He made a picture of himself in his own mind. He kept that picture always before himself. He worked hard to be what he wished to be.

Abraham Lincoln's father decided to move to Illinois. They were leaving in the morning. Abraham visited the neighbors. He bade them all goodbye. When they were ready to go they missed Abe. He had gone to his mother's grave at daylight. They found him there. He was broken-hearted to leave her behind.

CHAPTER V

THE EARLY MANHOOD OF LINCOLN

The household goods were loaded. The oxen were yoked. The family climbed into the covered wagon. Abe was the driver. He walked beside the oxen. They started on their journey to Illinois.

The wagon wheels were round blocks of wood. They were cut from the trunk of an oak tree. There were no spokes in the wheels. There was a hole in the center for an axle.

There were no roads nor bridges. They had to cross creeks and rivers. At last they found a place to settle. It was near the Sangamon River.

They went to work. They felled trees. They hewed logs. Then they built a cabin. Abe did much of this work. He helped clear the ground. He split rails. He then fenced a field. He planted the crop.

When spring came Abraham left his father's house. He was going to work for himself. He was now twenty-two years old. Since childhood he had given all his earnings and labor to his father.

He put everything he owned in a little bundle. He put his ax on his shoulder. Then he started out to look for work.

At first he worked among the neighbors. He split rails. He did whatever he could get to do. He read every book he could get. He made speeches whenever he had a chance. His speeches were good. The people thought he was wonderful.

A merchant at Sangamon hired Lincoln and his cousin, John Hanks, to take a load of corn and hogs down the river to New Orleans. They were to get fifty cents a day for this. They had to make the trip down the river in a flatboat. The produce was loaded. They started off.

The flatboat stuck in the mud in the river near New Salem. New Salem was a little town on the Sangamon River. A crowd of people came down to see the boat. They saw Abraham Lincoln. He was a tall, thin, sad-faced man. His coat was ragged. His hat was old and battered. His trousers were torn and patched.

The people on the river bank made fun of him. They laughed at his clothes. They shouted at him. But Abe did not look at them. He did not say a word to them. He went on with his work. He formed a plan to get the boat floated. He paid no attention to the grinning crowd. Soon he succeeded. His boat floated off.

They reached New Orleans. They sold the corn and hogs. Then Lincoln and his cousin went to see the sights of the city. Lincoln saw a sight he never forgot. It was a slave sale.

He saw a slave standing on a block. It was a young colored girl. A large crowd was gathered around. The auctioneer told them her good points. He drove her around among the people so they could examine her for themselves. He was selling her just like they sell horses.

This awful sight touched Lincoln's heart. He said to John Hanks: "If I ever get a chance, I'll put an end to slavery."

He and his companions returned to New Salem. The merchant opened a store in the little town. He hired Lincoln to clerk in it.

Everyone in town remembered Lincoln. He was the young man who freed the flatboat from the mud. He was the man they laughed at. Now they respected him for the way he acted that day on the river. They gave him a hearty welcome.

The merchant liked his clerk. He often boasted that Abe Lincoln was the smartest and strongest man in New Salem.

A rough set of good-natured fellows lived in a little town near New Salem. They were called the Clary Grove boys. Their leader was a big, strong fellow. His name was Jack Armstrong. The Clary Grove boys said Lincoln had to fight their leader before he could live in that town. Lincoln gave

him all that he deserved. Armstrong turned to the crowd and said: "Boys, Abe Lincoln is the best fellow that ever broke into this settlement."

After that the Clary Grove boys were Lincoln's best friends. They would do anything for him. Lincoln had many friends around there.

He played fair. He could stop a fight or quiet a disturbance when all others failed.

Lincoln's neighbors respected him for his strong body. But they respected him more for his strong character.

If a wagon was stalled in the muddy road, Lincoln was the first to help the driver. If a widow needed firewood, he cut it for her.

He always watched for a chance to do an act of kindness. He often sat up at night with sick people. He often rocked the cradle for some tired mother. He was always ready to do a kind act.

Every evening Lincoln counted the money he took in during the day. One evening he found that he had made a mistake. He had not given his last customer quite enough change. The customer was an old lady. She lived in the country two miles away. Lincoln would not go to bed till he corrected his mistake. He tramped to the woman's house. He gave her the money that was due her.

Another time he made a mistake weighing tea. He did not give the customer the right weight. He found it out. He corrected it at once. He sent the right amount to the customer. Lincoln was honest in everything he did. The people called him "Honest Abe." He carried that name the rest of his life.

Lincoln was not a good business man. He would rather study than wait on his customers. He would walk six miles to borrow a grammar. He would study his grammar. He would forget that he had any other work to do.

The store lasted only a few months. Lincoln was again out of work.

CHAPTER VI

THE BLACK HAWK WAR

The Sac Indians lived in the northern part of Illinois. Their home was the valley of the Rock River. The Government moved them to the land west of the Mississippi. The Indians did not like their new home. They planned to come back to their old hunting ground in Illinois. They were going to take it by force.

Several other tribes joined the Sacs. Black Hawk was an Indian Chief. He was the leader of the Indians. They marched toward the Rock River. They killed men, women and children. The people became frightened. This was in 1832.

Soldiers were sent to help the settlers. But there were not enough soldiers. The Governor of Illinois called for men to come and help fight the Indians. Lincoln was one of the first to answer the call. The Clary Grove boys went too.

Lincoln was chosen captain of a band of volunteers. They did not see any fighting. They never killed any Indians. But Lincoln saved the life of a helpless old Indian who strayed into camp. He was a friendly Indian.

Lincoln's company enlisted for only a few weeks. The time was up. The soldiers went home. But the trouble with the Indians was not settled. The Governor called for a second body of volunteers. Lincoln enlisted again. This time he enrolled as a private soldier.

There was a camp on the Rock River during the Black Hawk War. One day four men met in that camp. Afterwards they all became famous in history. They were, Lieutenant Colonel Zachary Taylor, Lieutenant Jefferson Davis, Lieutenant Robert Anderson and Private Abraham Lincoln. The war lasted three months. After it was over Lincoln returned to New Salem.

CHAPTER VII

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, POSTMASTER

Abraham Lincoln was nominated for the State Legislature. He made his first political speech in this campaign. There was a sale. The speechmaking began after the sale. Lincoln was the first speaker. He arose to speak. No one paid any attention to him. They were all watching a fight that was going on. Lincoln came down from the platform. He went into the crowd. He took hold of the ringleader of the fight. He picked him up by the back of the neck and the seat of the trousers. He tossed the fellow ten or twelve feet away. Then he climbed back upon the platform. He made his speech. The people listened to him too.

The entire county voted. Lincoln was known only about New Salem. He was defeated.

He and a partner went into business. They bought a store. They had no money. So they gave their notes. These were written promises to pay the debt.

Lincoln did not like to keep store. He liked better to study men and books.

One time a law book came to the store with other goods. It was Blackstone's "Commentaries on the Common Law." Lincoln was delighted with the very sight of it. He studied it. He paid no attention to the store.

Lincoln's partner was drinking. He paid no attention to the store either. The business failed. The partner died. Lincoln had to pay all the debt. He had no money. But he went to all of his creditors. He asked them to wait. He would pay them all. He would give them all he could earn above the cost of living. He promised to work out the last dollar of the debt.

He did anything he could get to do. One week he would split rails. Another week he would work in the fields. Sometimes he worked in the store. Sometimes he did chores about the tavern.

He owed eleven hundred dollars. He used to call it the "national debt." It seemed so big to him.

Through all this hard work Lincoln kept on reading and studying. He used to walk to Springfield to borrow law books. Springfield was twenty miles away. He was a man twenty-three years old. He used to walk back and forth in his bare feet.

Lincoln would like to study at night. But he had no light. A cooper let him use his shop at night. Here Lincoln would build a fire of shavings. He would read by this light.

As fast as he learned anything about law he made it useful. He would help his neighbors. He wrote their legal papers. In small cases he would be their lawyer. He would take no pay for this work.

In 1833 Lincoln was made postmaster at New Salem. He was not kept very busy. The mails only came once or twice a week in summer. Often in winter they came only once a month. There were few letters.

Lincoln liked this work. He could read all the newspapers that came in the mail. He had no office. He carried the mail about in his hat. When anyone wanted his mail he hunted up Lincoln.

He kept the office of postmaster until it was moved from New Salem.

After that Lincoln studied surveying. He studied hard. He became a good surveyor. He was able to earn good wages at this work. The farmers believed that he was the best surveyor in the county.

CHAPTER VIII

LINCOLN IN POLITICS

In 1834 Lincoln was again nominated for the Legislature. He was elected this time. He represented the Sangamon District.

He borrowed money to buy clothes. Vandalia was the capital of Illinois then. It was twenty-five miles from New Salem. Lincoln walked the whole distance.

He was now twenty-six years old. He had always lived in a log house. He had never been inside of a college. He had only attended school about six months all together.

The other members of the Legislature were educated men. They were lawyers and well-to-do farmers. There were no large towns in Illinois then. Chicago was only a trading post.

Lincoln did not do much during his first term. He watched and listened. He studied the other men. He paid close attention to everything that was done. He studied every measure before he voted on it.

He made friends, too. One of these was Stephen A. Douglas. Douglas was a member of the Legislature. He was a lawyer. Douglas had come to Illinois the year before. He had only thirty-seven cents in his pocket when he came. He taught school. Then he studied law. Douglas was a Democrat. Most of the members of the legislature were Democrats.

Lincoln was a Whig. The Whigs were not very strong. Henry Clay was Lincoln's model. He loved Clay. Clay was a Whig.

One of the members said that Lincoln was kind-hearted. He was always fair toward those who were against him. He never said unkind things about them. Everybody liked him and trusted him.

Abraham Lincoln had a noble heart. His friends always said that he would be a great man some day.

Lincoln always tried to be true. He always kept noble ideas in his mind. He always tried to be true to himself. That made him true to others.

CHAPTER IX

LINCOLN THE LAWYER

Lincoln was elected for a second term to the Legislature. He and eight other men were elected from the Sangamon District.

They were big, tall men. Each one was six feet or over. They were called the "Long Nine."

The "Long Nine" worked to make Springfield the capital of Illinois. They succeeded. So the capital was moved from Vandalia to Springfield.

In 1837 Lincoln protested against slavery. He protested "that slavery is founded on injustice and bad policy." When the protest was brought before the Legislature only one other man signed it besides Lincoln.

Lincoln left New Salem. He went to live in Springfield. The people of Springfield gave him a hearty welcome.

He borrowed law books. He studied them. He was very poor. He was still in debt. A storekeeper let him share his room. It was a large room over the store. There was a big fireplace in one end of it.

The young men of the town used to gather there every evening. They liked to come to this room. They were always sure to find Lincoln there. He was a good talker. He could tell a good story. They were all bright young men. They all wanted to learn. They would read some good book. Then they would talk about it. They had debates too.

Many of these young men became famous. Browning was one. He afterwards became a member of a President's cabinet. C. D. Baker was there. He became a United States Senator. Stephen A. Douglas came there too. He became a famous statesman.

One evening they were reading the Constitution of the United States. They read the qualifications for President. Baker burst into tears. He was born in England. He could never be President.

Lincoln completed his law studies. He was admitted to the bar. He was now a lawyer.

CHAPTER X

LINCOLN, THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Illinois was divided into districts. Each district was composed of several counties. There was one judge for each district. They had to hold court at each county seat. They traveled from one county to the other. They made the trip by horseback or in a buggy.

When Lincoln first began to "ride the circuit" he was too poor to own a horse. He borrowed one. At last he bought one. Then he used to feed and curry it himself.

All the lawyers travelled the circuits then. They all liked Lincoln. Many people attended court. The lawyers and the people were always glad to see Lincoln. They liked to see his smiling face. They liked to hear his cheerful voice. He always brought light and cheer with him. He loved his fellow men with all his great heart. And all who knew him loved him. The tall, lank man in blue jeans won the hearts of all.

Lincoln was tender-hearted. He was kind to animals. One time he was riding along with some other lawyers. They passed a crab-apple tree. There was a bird's nest in it. The wind had blown the little birds out of the nest. Lincoln heard the mother bird crying in distress. He hunted around until he found the birds. He then put them safely back in their nest.

The lawyers laughed at him. But he said: "I could not have slept if I had not given those little birds back to their mother."

Another time Lincoln was riding along a deep mud-hole. He had on a new suit of jeans. He saw a pig stuck in the mud. It was squealing. It could not get out. Lincoln felt

sorry for it. If he helped it out he would get his new clothes spoiled. So he rode on.

He rode for two miles. Then he turned back. He tied his horse. He put rails in the mud-hole. He stepped on them. He caught the pig and dragged it out. He washed his hands in a brook. He wiped them on the grass and rode off.

Lincoln was never afraid to do right. At that time no one would defend a runaway slave. Lincoln always took their cases. He was always their friend.

He would never take an unjust case. He never charged a large fee. He would take up a just case even if he never would be paid for it.

He was elected to the Legislature for four terms. He served from 1834 to 1841. He became the leader of the Whig Party in Illinois.

In 1840 the Whigs nominated William Henry Harrison for President. They nominated Tyler for Vice-president. The Democrats nominated President Van Buren for a second term.

Harrison fought in the War of 1812 and in the Indian wars. He won a great victory at Tippecanoe. He was a poor man. He was born in a log cabin. They called him the "Log Cabin Candidate."

Meetings were held in all the towns. Speeches were made. Wherever these meetings were held a log cabin was built. Outside of the door a gourd dipper was hung. They sang campaign songs. They would sing and cheer for "Tippecanoe and Tyler too."

Stephen A. Douglas was speaking for President Van Buren. Douglas was a smart and bright young man. He and Lincoln often debated. It was hard to tell which one was the better speaker.

The Whigs won. Harrison was elected. Lincoln returned to his law practice.

CHAPTER XI

LINCOLN IN CONGRESS

Mary Todd came to Kentucky to visit her sister. Mary Todd was a beautiful girl. Abraham Lincoln met Miss Todd. He fell in love with her. Miss Todd had many admirers. Stephen A. Douglas was among them. But she chose Abraham Lincoln.

Miss Todd was an aristocrat. Her relatives had been governors, generals and judges. She was proud of her family. She was well educated. She was refined and fond of society.

Lincoln was of humble birth. He was poor. He was awkward. He did not like society.

Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd were married in 1842. They went to the Globe Tavern to board. They paid four dollars a week for board. They lived at the tavern for two years. Then Lincoln bought a house. They lived in this house till he became President.

In 1843 Lincoln took William Herndon for his law partner. The partnership of "Lincoln and Herndon" was a happy one. It continued till Lincoln became President.

Lincoln was known as the "Sangamon Chief." He was now thirty-eight years old. He was elected to the United States Congress. James K. Polk was President.

There were many noted men in this Congress. John Quincy Adams was a member. He was called "Old Man Eloquent." Andrew Johnson was a member. He became Vice-president under Lincoln. Alexander H. Stephens was there. He afterwards became Vice-president of the Confederacy. Horace Greeley was a member. He was the editor of the New York Tribune.

In the Senate were Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun, Jefferson Davis and many other noted men.

Lincoln was the Whig leader in Congress. He was a good speaker. He had good common-sense. He was an able leader.



MARY TODD LINCOLN

Men always loved Lincoln. In Congress he soon won many friends. He was called the champion story-teller of Congress.

The Congressional Library and the Library of the Supreme Court were a gold mine to Lincoln. He would go to the library. He would tie up a lot of books in his red handkerchief. He would put his cane through the knot. Then he would put the bundle over his shoulder and go off to his boarding-house.

General Zachary Taylor was the hero of the Mexican War. He was nominated for President. Lincoln worked hard for him. Taylor was elected.

Lincoln hated slavery. He said that the nation would have to settle that question some day.

There was a slave market in Washington. It was in sight of the Capitol. Lincoln called it "a sort of negro livery stable." The negroes were kept here. From here they were taken to southern markets like droves of horses.

Lincoln tried to have slavery abolished in the District of Columbia. He offered a bill for that purpose. But it was never passed. Lincoln's term in Congress was over. He returned to Springfield. He took up the practice of law again.

CHAPTER XII

LINCOLN

Lincoln was always the friend and protector of the poor. He always tried to take their cases. He would not take pay from them.

He would never take a case that he knew was wrong. He would never advise his clients into an unwise or an unjust lawsuit. He hated wrong and oppression. He tried every case fairly and honestly.

Abraham Lincoln was a plain sad-faced man. His face was long and sallow. He had high cheek bones. His eyes were large and deep-set. He had heavy eyebrows. His forehead was high and broad. His head was large and well-shaped. His hair was long and black and coarse.

He had long arms and legs. His voice was clear and distinct. He was six feet four inches tall. He always greeted his friends with a warm handshake and a smile.

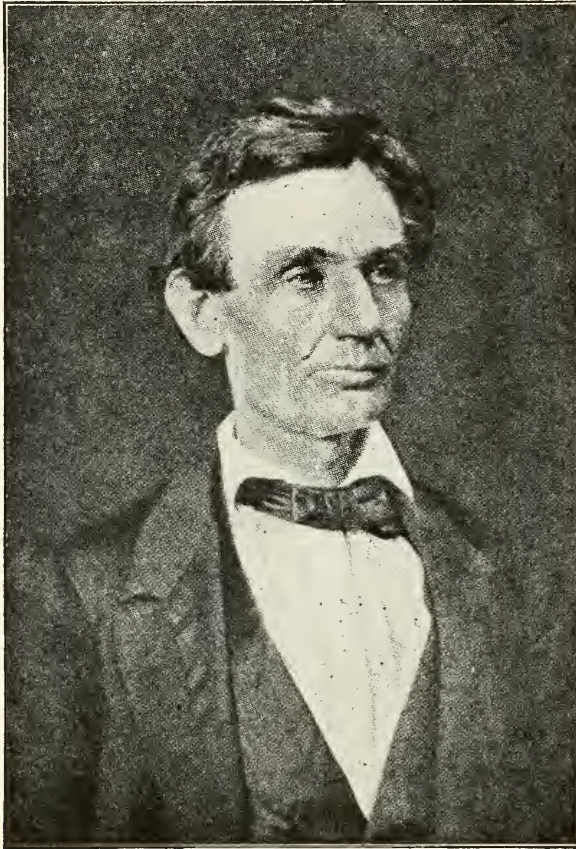
He lived simply and respectably. His wants were few and simple.

He loved poetry. His favorite poem was, "Oh why should the spirit of mortal be proud?" He read this poem often. It would bring tears to his eyes.

Many years had passed since Lincoln left his father's house. But he never forgot the folks at home. He visited them whenever he could. He gave them help and sympathy. He was always kind to them. He often sent money and presents to his father and stepmother. He bought a farm for them. He tried in every way to make them comfortable and happy. The father was now pleased with his son. He was proud of him. His father died before Abraham was elected President.

Few people knew the heart of Lincoln. His friends thought he was a plain, simple, practical man. He milked the cow.

He took care of his horse. He went to market with his basket on his arm. He gave a cheerful "how-do-you-do" to everyone he met on the way. He would often sit on a box in front of his office and tell stories to a crowd of men.



LINCOLN IN HIS PRIME

Lincoln was not always cheerful. Sometimes he was sad. He would bury himself in his sad thoughts for hours.

He had sorrows. He never told them to anyone. He had hopes. But he shared them with nobody. No one understood that he was a poet and a dreamer.

He had no mother, no brother, no sister, He had no living

relative. He went through life alone. In childhood he had no chums. In manhood none knew his heart.

Mrs. Lincoln loved and admired her husband. She was proud of him. She was a great help to him. He loved her. He was devoted to her. They often entertained their friends in their little home.

They had four children. They were boys. The eldest one was Robert, then Edward, William and Thomas. Edward died when he was a baby. Thomas was called Tad.

Lincoln loved his boys. He would carry them on his back. He would take them down town this way.

They were noisy and full of life. But their noise never troubled Lincoln. They often went to the office to play. They would play with the law books. They scattered them over the floor. Lincoln did not mind this. But it would annoy his partner.

Lincoln had an orderly mind. His thoughts were clear. He had a wonderful memory. He made no notes when trying cases. He kept everything in his mind. Sometimes he used papers. He carried them in his hat.

He never kept any books or accounts. If he received a fee when his partner was out he would divide it at once. He would wrap up his partner's share. He would mark it "Herdon's half." Then he would place it in a drawer.

Lincoln knew the Bible well. He knew much of Shakespeare. He liked Byron, Milton and Burns. He was never interested in gossip. But he was always ready to sympathize with his neighbor when he was in trouble.

He never forgot a kindness. One time a young man was accused of murder. He was William Armstrong. He was the son of Jack and Hannah Armstrong. They were Lincoln's old Clary Grove friends. They lived in New Salem. He used to go to their house when he was out of work.

Jack Armstrong was dead now. His wife, Hannah, was a white-haired old woman. When her boy got into trouble she went to Lincoln. She asked him to take the case.

Lincoln gratefully remembered this poor woman. She had been like a mother to him. She shared her cabin home with him.

He took the case. It was one of the most famous cases that he ever tried. The evidence seemed to be all against the boy. The chief witness swore that he saw William strike the fatal blow. He said it was eleven o'clock at night. He said he could see plainly for the moon was shining brightly. It was a full moon.

Lincoln arose to speak. He called for an almanac. He looked up the date of the murder. There was no moon that night. He showed this to the jury. He talked to them. He spoke earnestly and powerfully. He told them what this gray-haired old woman had done for him. He told them why he took the case. He told them that he did it out of gratitude. He told them about the little, old cabin home of the Armstrongs. When he had no home this cabin home was his home. When he had no friends the Armstrongs helped him. He was poor. They took him in and fed him. He said that white-haired old woman often mended his clothes while he rocked Bill to sleep in the cradle.

Tears streamed down his face as he spoke. He was sincere. He spoke truly. Everyone of the jurymen loved Lincoln. They honored him. They believed him. They cried. Everyone voted to clear William Armstrong.

Lincoln would not take a cent of pay for his work. He told Hannah that he hoped William would be a good boy. He hoped this would be a good lesson for him.

CHAPTER XIII

THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH

At daybreak on a March day in 1854, cannon boomed a signal to the people. It told the country that the Missouri Compromise was repealed.

The slavery question was a very old one. It came up when the Constitution of the United States was made. Then it was settled by a compromise in the Constitution. Each side gave in.

The Ordinance of 1787 was a compromise on slavery. To please the South, slavery was permitted in the Mississippi Valley south of the Ohio River. To please the North, slavery was forbidden in the territory north of the Ohio River.

In Congress both sides were equally represented. There was an equal number of slave states and free states.

The Louisiana Purchase brought more territory. Missouri was formed from the Louisiana Purchase. Missouri wanted to come into the Union. It wanted to come in as a slave state. This caused a dispute in Congress. It was settled by the Missouri Compromise. To please the South, Missouri was to be admitted as a slave state. To please the North, there was to be no slavery in the territory lying north of the southern boundary line of Missouri. This compromise was made in 1820.

The war with Mexico brought another addition to the country. A dispute arose in Congress about this new territory. Each side wanted it. This was settled by a compromise. It was called the Compromise of 1850.

Now both sides were pleased. They thought that the slavery question was settled. It was a hateful subject. The North and the South thought the question was settled forever. They had settled it peaceably.

But the slavery question was not settled. It came up four years later. Two states were formed from the territory lying north of the southern boundary line of Missouri. According to the Missouri Compromise these states should come into the Union as free states. But the South said according to the Compromise of 1850, the people of these states could decide for themselves. They could choose whether they wanted to be slave or free states.

The southern leaders worked hard to have the Missouri Compromise set aside. At last this was done. It was repealed in March, 1854. Cannon were fired to tell the news to the country.

This aroused the North. They were furious. They did not object to slavery in the South. But they did not want it to spread to the North.

The people had just read "Uncle Tom's Cabin." They began to understand how terrible slavery was.

CHAPTER XIV

THE LIFE MISSION OF LINCOLN

The repeal of the Missouri Compromise roused Lincoln to his life mission. He determined to stop the spread of slavery. He was opposed to slavery ever since he went down to New Orleans in the flatboat.

Another time he saw a man taking some slaves to the South. They were twelve negroes. They were chained together, six and six. Each negro had a chain fastened to his left wrist. This chain was fastened to a larger chain. At a short distance on the chain, another was fastened to it. Six were attached to the main chain. Then they were driven away. They were taken from their homes. They were separated forever from their fathers and mothers and brothers and sisters. Many of them had wives and children. They were taken away from them. They were slaves. The sight touched Lincoln's heart.

He determined to work against slavery. He said he would work till "the sun shall shine, the rain shall fall, and the wind shall blow upon no man who goes forth to unpaid toil."

The years from 1854 to 1860 were years of constant hard work for Lincoln. He was now the leader of the antislavery party in the Northwest.

Lincoln wrote a letter to one of his friends. He said: ". . . I now do no more than oppose the extension of slavery. I am not a Know-Nothing. That is certain. How could I be? How can anyone who abhors the oppression of the negroes be in favor of degrading classes of white people? Our progress in degeneracy appears to me to be pretty rapid. As a nation we began by declaring that 'all men are created equal.' We now practically read it 'all men are created equal, except negroes.' When the Know-Nothings get control,

it will read, 'all men are created equal except negroes and foreigners and Catholics.' When it comes to that, I should prefer emigrating to some other country where they make no pretense of loving liberty—to Russia for instance, where despotism can be taken pure, and without the base alloy of hypocrisy.'"

CHAPTER XV

LINCOLN AND DOUGLAS

In 1856 a new party was formed. It was formed from the Whig Party. The new party was called the Republican Party.

The Republicans held their first state convention in Bloomington, Illinois. Lincoln was their leader. He made a speech before the convention. It was a wonderful speech. He spoke against the extension of slavery. He held his hearers spell-bound. The reporters even forgot to take it down. So it is often called the "lost speech."

The Republicans chose Lincoln to be their candidate for the United States Senate. Stephen A. Douglas was the Democratic candidate.

Lincoln and Douglas were to "stump" the state together. Douglas was a brilliant speaker. He had debated with the best speakers of the United States. He had debated with Daniel Webster, with John C. Calhoun, with Henry Clay. Now he was to debate with a man who gave him more trouble than all of these. This man was Abraham Lincoln.

Douglas was called the "Little Giant." The Little Giant and Honest Abe met in debate many times during this campaign. These were famous debates. People all over the state were interested in them. Their speeches were printed in the newspapers.

They made speeches in the principal towns. People came for miles around to hear them. They came by trainloads to

these towns. They came by wagons. They came on horseback. They walked. Sometimes they would come the night before. They would camp on the prairie like an army.

Douglas was a handsome, fine-looking man. He had a deep voice. He was well-dressed.

Lincoln was tall and thin. His clothes did not fit well. His face was sad and marked with deep lines.

Douglas traveled in a private car. Lincoln rode in a dusty day coach. On long journeys he often had to sit up all night. There was no place to sleep.

Douglas was wealthy. He was famous all over the United States. Lincoln was poor. He was not known outside of his own state.

Douglas was elected. But Lincoln's party made large gains. In this campaign Lincoln showed himself to be a good debater. He was fair, frank and manly. He made many friends by his speeches. The people believed in this earnest, sad-faced man.

CHAPTER XVI

THE NOMINATION OF LINCOLN

Lincoln went back to his law practice. He worked hard. The McCormick Reaper Company had a big lawsuit in Cincinnati. One of their lawyers was Edward M. Stanton. Lincoln was called to help with the suit. When he reached Cincinnati the other lawyers slighted him. Stanton called him a "giraffe." These lawyers thought the tall, ill-dressed man did not know very much. Lincoln felt badly about this.

Lincoln was invited to speak in New York City. He spoke in Cooper Institute. There was a large crowd there. Many distinguished men were there. William Cullen Bryant was there. Horace Greeley was there. Lincoln won his New York audience. He held them spellbound. They were carried away by his wonderful address.

From New York he went over to the New England States. He went to see his son, Robert. Robert was in school there.

The Republicans of Illinois met in May, 1860. They met to choose their delegates to the National Convention. They named Abraham Lincoln as their choice for President. They told their delegates to vote for him.

Lincoln was cheered. The cheering was like the roar of the sea. Men threw their hats in the air. Lincoln was carried to the platform. He made a speech thanking his friends for what they had done.

A fine old man walked into the convention. He carried two rails on his shoulder. There was a banner on the rails. These words were written on it: "Two rails from a lot made by Abraham Lincoln and John Hanks in the Sangamon Bottom in the year 1830."

The man carrying the rails was John Hanks. It was the proudest day of his life. He was received with loud cheers.

The people went wild. The rails were taken to the National Convention at Chicago.

The Republicans held their National Convention in Chicago. They built a large building. They called it the "Wigwam." The Convention was held on the 16th day of May, 1860. They were to nominate a man for President. This was the first National Convention ever held in Chicago. The "Wigwam" was filled with people. There were 12,000 people in it.

Every state is supposed to send delegates to the National Convention. Now the feeling between the North and the South was very bitter. But not every state sent a delegate to this Convention. Nine of the Southern States refused to send delegates.

William H. Seward was the New York candidate. He was very popular. He was a trained statesman. He was a wise politician. He was the leader of the Republican Party in the United States. He had been Governor of New York. Now he was a United States Senator.

The New York delegates expected their man to be nominated at once. They thought he would get every vote in the Convention.

Lincoln was only a country lawyer. The East knew nothing about him before he spoke in the Cooper Institute.

Ohio had a candidate. It was Salmon P. Chase. Pennsylvania had a candidate. Missouri had a candidate. Some other states also had candidates.

The delegates voted. Seward led. Lincoln was next. None received a majority. They voted four times. Lincoln was nominated.

Then the "Wigwam" was shaken to its foundation with the cheers. The crowd outside cheered in answer. Cannon boomed and echoed. Chicago went wild. One hundred guns were fired from the top of the highest building. All night the city was a blaze of glory. They had bonfires, processions, torchlights, fireworks. The air was filled with noise. Every man on the street was shouting for "Honest Old Abe."

Lincoln did not go to the Convention. He stayed in Springfield. He waited in a newspaper office to hear the news. They sent him a telegram. It told him the good news. He hurried home to tell his wife.



LINCOLN'S HOME, SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

As soon as the news reached Springfield they fired a salute. They fired one hundred guns. Friends and neighbors crowded at the Lincoln home. They came to congratulate Lincoln and his wife.

Hannibal Hamlin of Maine was chosen for Vice-president. The Democratic Party divided. The Northern Democrats nominated Stephen A. Douglas for President. The Southern Democrats named John C. Breckenridge for President.

CHAPTER XVII

THE ELECTION OF LINCOLN

The campaign of 1860 was very exciting. It was noisy and loud in the North. In the South it was bitter and threatening.

In November, 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States. His neighbors and friends were proud and happy. He could hear them cheering. But Lincoln did not rejoice. His heart was filled with sadness. In the nine slave states he did not receive a vote.

Lincoln saw the danger to the Union. He stayed at home during the campaign. Now people flocked to see him. They came from all parts of the country. They wanted to see the famous rail-splitter.

But not everyone wished Lincoln well. Many were furious with him. Many in the South would not accept him for President. The next day after the election South Carolina seceded from the Union. They would not accept Abraham Lincoln. Many more southern states planned to follow South Carolina.

Many people in the North did not want Lincoln for President. Many noted Republicans were opposed to him. Many people in the North believed the South had a right to secede if it wanted to do so.

Lincoln wanted to keep the Union whole. He wanted the North and the South to be united. He said no state had a right to leave the Union without the consent of the other states.

There were other troubles besides the slavery question. Banks failed. Business was dead. The United States Treasury was empty.

The new President stayed quietly at Springfield. Office-seekers swarmed about him. Friends crowded around him. But he was calm.

He planned his Cabinet himself. He had principles. He was true to them. They were his guide. They were to guide him to his high ideals. One of these ideals was to save the Union. The other was to stop the spread of slavery.

It now looked as though there would be no Government in Washington on March fourth. Seven slave states had seceded. These states were trying to get Virginia and Maryland to secede. This would cut the capital off from the North. Then the Confederacy would make Washington its capital.

Before he left Illinois Lincoln went to visit his mother's grave. He also went to see his stepmother. She was his best friend. He loved her as a mother. She was glad to see him. She loved him. She was sad to see him President. She was afraid something would happen to him.

The day before he left Springfield he was in his office. He was talking to his partner, William Herndon. He said: "Billy, you and I have been in the law business nearly twenty years. We have never had a cross word. Will you let my name stay on that old sign till I come back from Washington?" Tears came to Herndon's eyes. He said: "Mr. Lincoln, I will never have any other partner while you live."

Lincoln arose. His face was very sad. He walked down the stairs. He passed under the sign for the last time.

On February 11, 1861, Lincoln was to leave his home in Springfield. He was to begin his journey to Washington. This journey was to take two weeks. Lincoln was to stop at the principal cities of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland.

The morning of February 11 was cold and gloomy. A slight snow was falling. A large crowd of friends and neighbors gathered at the station. They came to bid Lincoln farewell.

They formed in two lines so he could pass through the crowd. He passed slowly between the lines. Many of them caught his hands as he passed along. He stood on the rear

platform of his train. He took off his hat. All the people bared their heads. They did not mind the falling snowflakes.

He stood in silence a few seconds. He looked at the faces before him. He was very sad. His lip shook with grief. There were tears on his withered cheeks. He looked as though he were asking them for sympathy and love. He was sadly thinking of the great changes in his life. He thought of the great changes that had lifted him from the lowest to the highest place. He thought of his sad trials. He thought of his poor mother lying in that lonely grave in the dark forest. He thought of another little grave in Springfield.

He then spoke to the crowd. His voice was filled with sadness. His tones were low and sweet. Lincoln always spoke true and sincere words. But he never spoke truer words than he did that day. He spoke from the depths of his big heart. There was a craving in his voice. He craved the sympathy of his friends. He craved the help of God. He craved God's love.

He said: "My friends, no one can understand my feelings of sadness at this parting. To this place and to the kindness of these people, I owe everything. I have lived here for a quarter of a century. Here I have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born. Here one of them is buried. I now leave. I do not know when I shall come back. I do not know whether I shall ever see you again. The work before me is greater than that which rested upon Washington. Washington depended upon the help of God. And God helped him. I ask for that same divine help. I ask for God's blessing on the work before me. I depend upon Him for support.

"I trust He will go with me. I trust He will remain with you and be everywhere for good. I beg Him to bless and care for you. I beg you to pray to Him for me. I bid you an affectionate farewell."

The train pulled away. The people looked after it through their tears. They could see Lincoln still standing on the

platform of the car. He stood there looking at the little town as long as he could see it.

He came to that town when he was a young man of twenty-three. He was poor and lowly. Barefoot he walked its streets. Now he was leaving. He held the highest position in the land. No one had ever risen from such a lowly place.

The trip to Washington lasted two weeks. Lincoln wanted to meet the people of the Northern States. Everywhere he met with a warm and hearty greeting. He spoke to the people.

He begged them to be calm and patient. He begged them to have faith in the strength of the Government. He begged them to have faith in him. He would do his duty honestly and fairly. He begged them to trust in God. He would guide the nation through all dangers. He would never forsake His chosen people.

The city of New York received Lincoln coldly. They did not understand this big, awkward Westerner. But the plain people always loved him.

Lincoln had to pass through Baltimore to go to Washington. Maryland had not invited the President to stop in that state. Baltimore refused its hospitality to the new President. They threatened to mob him if he passed through the city.

Lincoln's friends were worried. They feared for his safety. So they persuaded him to take an earlier train to Washington. He took a night train from New York to Washington. No one knew he was on it. He passed through Baltimore in the middle of the night. He reached Washington safely.

CHAPTER XVIII

THE INAUGURATION

Washington had no welcome for the new President. Washington was a slave-holding city. It was a southern city. The people hoped to drive the Northerners from it.

Most of the people in Washington were Democrats. They had governed the country for sixty years.

Now the Republicans came to Washington. They filled the streets. They crowded the hotels. Most of them were office-seekers. The people of Washington scorned them.

The day of the Inauguration came. The White House carriage drove up to Lincoln's hotel. An old man hobbled out of it. He went into the hotel. This was President Buchanan. He was a short, stout, white-haired old man. He wore an old-fashioned swallow-tailed coat.

A few minutes later he came out. President Lincoln was with him. Lincoln wore a new black suit. He had a shining high hat. He carried a gold-headed cane.

General Scott guarded the new President. A double line of cavalry lined the street from the hotel to the Capitol. The carriage moved between. Soldiers marched in front of it. They marched behind it too. Soldiers were on the roofs of the buildings. They watched for any signs of danger.

Lincoln reached the Capitol safely. A large platform was built in front of it. Here President Lincoln was to take the oath of office.

Chief Justice Taney was to give the oath of office to President Lincoln. He was a very learned man. He was noted for his Dred Scott Decision.

Stephen A. Douglas was there. He and Lincoln had been rivals all their lives. Now Douglas was loyal to Lincoln. He even held Lincoln's hat and cane while he was giving his

inaugural address. Seward and Chase were there. Both of them had been Lincoln's rivals for the nomination for President at Chicago. Now Lincoln had appointed both of them to his Cabinet.

Senator Baker from Oregon was there. He was one of Lincoln's friends in the old days at Springfield. He was the young man who cried because he could not be President.

Lincoln stood there bareheaded. A large crowd of people was gathered before him. But there was no joyful greeting for him.

Lincoln was the sixteenth President of the United States. Every one of the other Presidents had hoped to add a new star to the nation. But Lincoln from his heart hoped he would not lose any. He hoped he would save all of them.

He spoke affectionately to the people before him. He reasoned with them. He pleaded with them to listen to the "better angels" of their natures. He begged the South not to act in haste. He begged the North and the South to dwell together in peace. He said: "It is for you to decide whether there will be civil war. I have sworn to defend the Union. We are not enemies. Passion may have strained the bonds of our affection. We must not let it break them. The chords of memory are stretched all over the broad land, from every battlefield to every living heart. They are stretched from every patriot grave to every hearthstone. These chords will be touched by the better angels of our nature. They will swell the grand chorus of the nation."

CHAPTER XIX

PRESIDENT LINCOLN

With a heavy heart Lincoln entered the White House. Seven states had already left the Union. They were, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida and Texas.

They formed a new republic. They called it the Confederate States of America. The capital was Montgomery, Alabama. Jefferson Davis was the President.

The southern senators and representatives had withdrawn from the United States Congress. The Stars and Stripes were taken down from all the buildings in the South.

Many officers left the army. They went with the South.

The southern people believed sincerely that they were right. They believed that the State was above the Union. Many northern people believed the same thing.

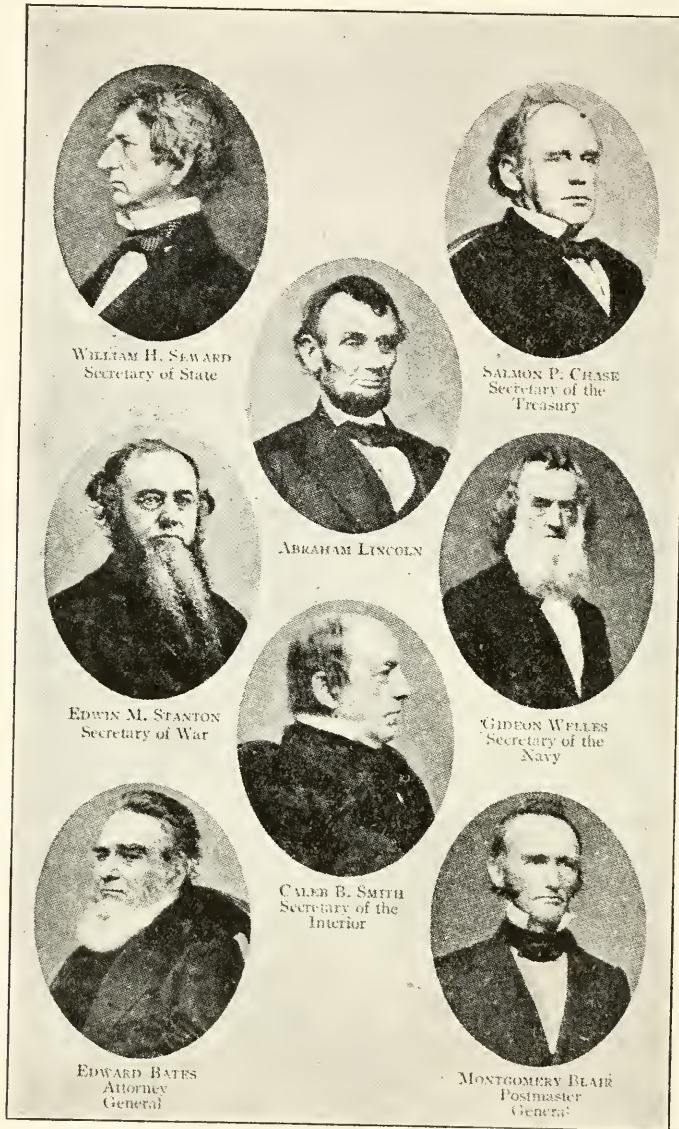
There were seven other slave states. They had not yet decided what they would do.

In the North the people did not know what to do. They did not know how to force a state to stay in the Union. They did not know how to make the senators and representatives keep their seats in Congress. They did not want to force the South. They feared war.

Lincoln was calm through all this. He studied the people before him. He asked no one for advice. He depended upon his own sense of right and duty.

The office-seekers made it hard for Lincoln. They crowded in the White House. They all wanted Lincoln to give them some office. He always listened patiently to them. He would do what he could to satisfy them. Sometimes he would tell them a funny story. This would put them in good humor.

The nation was in distress. But these office-seekers were scrambling for places. Lincoln said: "I am like a man who



LINCOLN AND HIS CABINET

is busy letting rooms in one end of his house while the other end is afire."

Lincoln made Seward Secretary of State. He made Chase Secretary of the Treasury.

The members of the Cabinet did not understand the President. They did not think that Lincoln was wise and great. They thought he was not fit to be President. Lincoln showed them that he was very well able to govern the nation.

Some of the leading Republicans did not understand their President. They had quarrels in the party. They thought they could run the Government better than the President could. They thought Lincoln was not equal for this great work. They all had some advice to give him. But Lincoln was silent. In a short time they found out that he was the greatest man among them.

CHAPTER XX

WAR

The Union flag was still floating over one place in South Carolina. That was over Fort Sumter in the Charleston harbor. The soldiers in Fort Sumter needed supplies. They sent word to the President. They told him they could not hold out much longer without provisions.

General Scott was Lieutenant General of the army. He advised Lincoln to give Fort Sumter to the Confederates. He said it was impossible to send provisions to them.

Lincoln called a meeting of his Cabinet. He talked with them. They all advised him to give up the fort.

This was a hard choice for the President. He must haul down the flag. He must give up the seven seceded states. He must do this before the whole world. Or he must call the whole nation to war.

Lincoln was alone. He wanted to hold the fort. He wanted to send provisions to the brave men holding it. He talked

to the officers of the army and of the navy. They advised him to give it up. General Scott advised him to give up another fort too. This one was in Florida. This worried Lincoln. He made up his mind. He would not give up the forts.

He planned to send food to Fort Sumter. He planned to send soldiers to defend the fort in Florida.

The Confederates fired on Fort Sumter. The first shot was fired before break of day on a Friday morning in April. Crowds were gathered on the shore. They cheered when the shot tore across the sky. The sun arose. It gleamed on the folds of the Stars and Stripes. The flag was still flying. But on the shore there was not a friendly eye to greet it.

The relief ships that Lincoln had sent were out in the harbor. They were laden with food for the brave men in the fort. But these ships were helpless. They could do nothing to help the brave defenders.

Major Robert Anderson was commander of the fort. There were one hundred and twenty-eight men in it. The guns of Charleston kept firing all day Friday. They poured their shot and shell on the fort for two days. Sunday morning Fort Sumter was in flames. The brave commander was forced to surrender. He did it sadly.

He was allowed to take his men to the relief ships. They went with all the honors of war.

The North was wild with excitement. The leaders swarmed to the White House. They advised Lincoln what he should do. Lincoln was quiet and grave. He knew just what to do.

Stephen A. Douglas went to see Lincoln. He went to offer his help. He told Lincoln that he would do anything for him.

Douglas was a great help at this time. He went all over Illinois. He made speeches wherever he went. He begged his friends to stand by Lincoln. He begged them to defend the Union. He told them that Lincoln would lead the nation aright.

Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers. The North answered the call at once. In forty-eight hours a Massachusetts regiment was marching to Washington.

Men from all over the North rushed to defend the nation. Not one of the slave states answered the President's call.

The Governor of Delaware refused to organize troops. Maryland said that no Union soldiers should be brought across her soil.

The Governor of Lincoln's native state refused the call. He said: "Kentucky will furnish no troops to subdue her sister southern states." The Governor of Missouri declared: "Not one man will Missouri furnish for this unholy war."

Four more southern states seceded. The flag of the Confederacy now bore eleven stars on its field of blue.

Many officers of the regular army joined the Confederacy. About half of the officers of the navy went with the South. These men were the flower of the army and navy. They were the best men in the service. These brave men believed their cause was just. They loved the Union. But they believed the State came first.

Among these were Robert E. Lee, Joseph E. Johnston, Albert Sidney Johnston, Jubal Early, "Stonewall" Jackson, John C. Pemberton, James E. Stuart.

Lee was born in Virginia. He lived at Arlington. It was just across the Potomac. He could see the capital from his home. He loved the Union. But he would not take up his sword against Virginia. He went with his beloved state.

Not one private in the army resigned. Lincoln was very proud of this.

There were not soldiers enough in Washington to guard it. The Massachusetts regiment was on its way to Washington. They came through Baltimore. They were attacked as they passed through the city. Many of them were wounded.

Lincoln ordered the troops to go around Baltimore. Soon twenty thousand men were in Washington.

Lincoln had to organize a large army. He had to furnish it with food and clothing. He had to command it.

There was no money in the treasury. Chase was Secretary of the Treasury. He did not know what to do. The Secretary of the Navy knew nothing about naval affairs. The Secretary

of War knew nothing of military affairs. They had everything to learn.

The army was crippled. There were no officers. The best of them had gone with the South. General Scott was in command of the army. He was seventy-five years old. He had fought in the War of 1812 and in the Mexican War. Now he was worn out with age and hard work.

Lincoln did the best he could. He encouraged his men. Volunteers poured into Washington. Lincoln took a deep interest in everything. He studied military and naval affairs. He advised his Cabinet what to do.

The Confederates were coming nearer to Washington. Their cry was, "On to Washington." The Northern cry was, "On to Richmond." Richmond was now the capital of the Confederacy.

The Union Army was marching southward. They met the Confederates thirty-two miles from Washington. It was at Bull Run. It was on Sunday morning in July. They drew up for battle for the first time.

The soldiers of the North were dressed in their new uniforms of blue. Their guns were shining. Their banners were waving.

The southern men wore uniforms of gray. Their guns shone bright. The southern flag was waving in the breeze.

The northern people thought the Union army would win. They thought it would be an easy victory.

People flocked from Washington to see the battle. Many people came from Richmond to see it. Jefferson Davis was there. He saw the Stars and Stripes waving on the Union side. He had fought for that beloved flag. He had trained under it at West Point. He fought for it in the Mexican War. He sighed. He now stood beneath the Stars and Bars of the Confederacy.

Lincoln stayed in Washington. He was worried. He waited patiently for news of the battle. At six o'clock a messenger came to the White House. He told the President that the battle was lost.

Lincoln did not say a word. He went to the War Department. All night he listened to reports. He made notes. Everybody was excited. The North was humiliated.

Many advised Lincoln. They wanted him to give up. They advised him to let the South go. But Lincoln said nothing. This sad man looked more determined than ever.

He did not find fault with others. He went among the defeated soldiers. He cheered them. He spoke to them kindly. He never made a complaint.

Lincoln placed General McClellan in command of the Union army. McClellan organized the army. He drilled it well. But he gained no victories. People complained. They wanted a victory. They blamed Lincoln for all the trouble.

England, France and Spain were causing the North much worry. But through it all Lincoln was calm. He carefully guided the nation.

He quietly won the border slave states for the Union. These states were Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri. He divided Virginia. Part of it he made into a new state. It was called West Virginia. This state was admitted into the Union.

These border states were a great loss to the Confederacy. By losing them, they lost about three million southerners.

Grant was Commander of the Army of the West. He was winning success.

Lincoln could not find a good leader for the Army of the Potomac. He appointed Edwin M. Stanton for Secretary of War. Stanton was the lawyer who made fun of Lincoln many years before.

Stanton was a learned man. He understood military affairs. He was a Democrat. He did not like Lincoln. But Lincoln wanted a man in the War Department who understood military affairs. He chose Stanton. Afterwards Stanton learned to respect Lincoln.

The Confederates were getting away from the Army of the Potomac. Lincoln saw this. He was worried.

One day a new vessel sailed up Hampton Roads. It was

covered with steel. It was a Confederate vessel. It was called the Merrimac. It destroyed all the boats in the harbor. The boats of that time were all made of wood.

A new vessel came. It looked like a "cheese box on a raft." It was iron-clad. It was called the Monitor.

One Sunday morning the little Monitor sailed up the mouth of the James River. The two ironclads met. They fought for three hours. The Merrimac retreated. This was the first fight between ironclads.

Lincoln at last took the command from McClellan. He made General Pope commander of the Army of the Potomac.

A second battle was fought at Bull Run. Again the Union army was defeated.

Lincoln was broken-hearted. Lee was marching northward. He was going to invade Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Lincoln again placed McClellan in command of the Army of the Potomac. He told McClellan to drive the Confederates back.

The President had promised that if the North won a victory he would free the slaves.

The slaves were a great help to the South in the war. They helped to build railroads and bridges. They labored in the fields while the men were fighting in the army.

McClellan's army met the Confederates in Maryland. A battle was fought. This was the battle of Antietam. The Confederates were driven back. But McClellan did not follow Lee. He allowed the southern general to get away safely.

Lincoln kept his promise. He made the Emancipation Proclamation. This was in September, 1862. In this he decreed that all the slaves in the Confederate States were to be freed. This was to take effect on the first day of January, 1863.

The winter of 1862 and 1863 was the darkest since Valley Forge. The people were not satisfied. They complained to Lincoln. They wanted the commander changed. They wanted the plans changed. They did not like the way the war was being carried on.

Lincoln listened to their complaints. He was carrying the heavy burden of the whole nation. His big heart was sad and weary. He always had patience. He sometimes took time to tell these troublesome people a funny story.

Some wanted the President to resign. But Lincoln was brave. He kept up courage. But he was very sad. Once he said: "I shall never be happy again. My heart is wearing out with sorrow. I shall not last."

He could not find a good general. He could not find a good leader for the Army of the Potomac. He himself had all the responsibility. Twice he had gone to the front himself.

The Army of the Potomac lost the battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville.

Lincoln received the message from Chancellorsville. His face was worn with pain. All night he walked the floor. As he walked he thought and planned. He decided to place General Hooker in command of the Army of the Potomac.

CHAPTER XXI

GETTYSBURG

Lee now determined to march northward. He would lead his victorious army into the North. He would unfurl the southern flag above the Capitol at Washington.

Lincoln ordered Hooker to follow Lee. He said: "Follow on his flank, and on his inside track. Shorten your lines while he lengthens his." This was wise advice. It was the right thing to do.

Hooker followed Lee across Maryland. Lee and his seventy-five thousand soldiers walked on the free soil of Pennsylvania. The people in the North were in a panic. All labor stopped. The people rushed about the streets. In the midst of all this, Hooker resigned. The Army of the Potomac was without a leader.

General Meade was placed in command of the army. He hurried after Lee. He had ninety thousand soldiers. They followed the Confederates so rapidly that Lee had to turn and face them. This was in the southern part of Pennsylvania. It was near the little town of Gettysburg.

These two great armies stretched out across wheat fields and peach orchards. They reached across the beautiful valleys. They extended up the hills. During three long hot days of midsummer they fought. This famous battle began on July 1, 1863.

Night fell on the first day's fighting. Victory was with Lee. The second day the Union army held its own. The third day the Confederates retreated. The North had won the battle. The loss of life on both sides was frightful. Afterwards this battlefield was dedicated as a national cemetery.

Lee went southward. Meade did not follow him. Lincoln was disappointed in this. He wanted Meade to capture Lee.

CHAPTER XXII

1864

Politics were very exciting in 1864. Lincoln was reelected. He had many enemies among the leaders of his party. But the common people loved him. They voted for him. They trusted him.

Lincoln worked hard while he was President. He never took a vacation. He was kind to all. He had a hearty welcome to everyone who came to the White House. He liked to help the lowly people. He was their true friend. One day he said: "When I die I hope my friends will remember that I wanted to be kind to everyone. I hope they will remember that I always plucked a thistle. I always planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow."

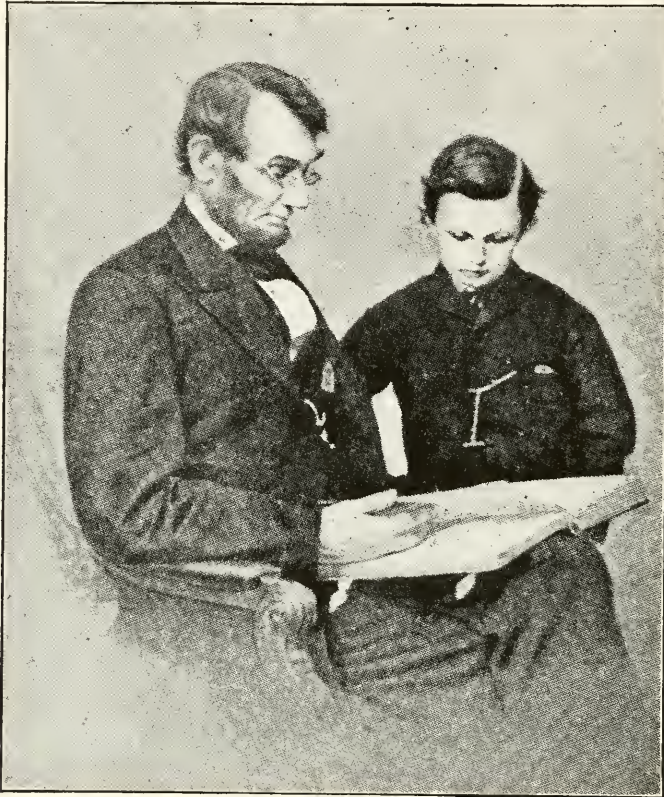
Often Lincoln would not take time to eat his meals. But he kept up his great strength. His muscles were as hard as iron. He could grip an ax by the tip end of its handle and hold it out even with his shoulder. He was a good horse-back rider.

Lincoln loved children. They loved him too. They were never afraid of him. Young and old saw the kindness in his sad face. Little babies reached out their arms to him.

The youngsters liked him. He had three sons. Robert was the eldest. He had been to college. Now he was an officer in Grant's army. The other two sons were William and Thomas. They were called Willie and Tad. Willie was ten. Tad was eight.

These two little fellows had a good time in Washington. They each had a goat. They would hitch their goats to chairs. Then they would drive up and down the hall of the White House.

They had dogs that they harnessed. They drove them in the White House grounds. They had ponies. They would mount the ponies and gallop along the streets of Washington. Sometimes they had shows in the attic of the White House.



LINCOLN AND TAD

Lincoln loved to hear them shout at play. Their noise never disturbed him. He would often play with them.

The second year at Washington, Willie died. This was a hard trial for both the President and Mrs. Lincoln.

After little Willie's death, Tad received a double share of love. The boy was free to come to his father at any time. He would come even to a cabinet meeting. He would crawl all over his father. He would play about. Then he would fall

asleep on the floor. Or he would climb up into his father's lap and take a nap.

Tad was the joy of his father's heart. Lincoln would romp through the White House with him. They would whoop like wild Indians. They played horse together. The President would carry the boy on his shoulders. Little Tad would shout, "Papa-day! O Papa-day!"

Many books came to the White House. Lincoln would open these in the evenings. Tad would stand at his side. The father and son would talk together as they turned the leaves.

One time Lincoln reviewed the Army of the Potomac. He rode ahead with General Grant. Behind him galloped Tad. The soldiers loved Lincoln. They called him "Father Abraham." They cheered with all their might when they saw him. When Tad rode by they cheered him with all their hearts. They loved the child. He was the pet of the nation.

Lincoln loved the soldiers. There were many hospitals in Washington. They were crowded with sick and wounded soldiers. Lincoln often visited the hospitals. He cheered the sick. His heart was full of pity for them.

Many soldiers took their troubles to the President. When the generals and the Secretary of War paid no attention to them, they would go to Lincoln. He would listen. He granted their requests. He was always doing acts of kindness. The Secretary of War complained. The generals complained. They said that the President pardoned too many. But the soldiers cried: "God bless Abraham Lincoln."

One time a young man was condemned to die. He was in a camp near Washington. He was on guard duty. He had just come in from the country. He had fallen asleep at his post. This was a very serious offence.

The officers said the boy must die. Everything was done to save him. But it was no use. All the soldiers of his company pleaded for him. His captain asked the officers to save him. His friends and relatives begged for the boy's life. But it was in vain. He was to be shot.

At last they went to Lincoln. They told him about the

boy. They begged the President to save him. Lincoln listened to their story. He went to see the boy. He talked to him. He asked him about his parents. He asked about the farm. The boy told the President all about his home among the New England hills. He told of his parents. He had a picture of his mother. He showed it to the President.

Then Lincoln told him that he was a good boy. He was too good to be shot. He promised to save him. But he said the boy would have to pay for it.

The boy was happy. His heart was full of gratitude. He said his father would raise the money to pay the bill. He would mortgage the farm. Lincoln said that would not do. The boy himself must pay the bill. He laid his hand on the boy's head. His kindly eyes looked into the honest face of the boy. He told the lad that he could pay the bill by proving himself to be as brave and faithful as any soldier of the Union. The boy pledged his life. He promised to be true and faithful.

Afterwards the boy fought in the Peninsular campaign. It was his first battle. The soldiers made a fearful charge across a river. They charged upon some blazing rifle pits. The boy was among the first to make the charge. He was among the last to turn his back on the enemy.

Retreat sounded. The boy swam safely back to the bank of the stream. But he felt that he had not yet paid the President's bill. He plunged into the river again. He rescued his wounded companions. The foe was firing upon him. Again and again he plunged into the water. Each time he brought back a wounded comrade with him. He was bringing the last one back. A bullet struck him in the breast. He was dying. He paid the President's bill in full. With his dying breath he blessed Lincoln. He thanked God that he was dying for the Union.

CHAPTER XXIII

THE SECOND INAUGURATION

On March 4, 1865, Lincoln drove to the Capitol. A troop of negro soldiers were in the procession. They were slaves when Lincoln came to Washington four years before.

Lincoln took his place on the steps of the Capitol. He had changed in those four years. Now he was no stranger. He stood before them as their leader. He was trusted. He was crowned with the people's love. His face was older. It was worn with sorrow and pain. The great war had left its mark there.

Then he gave his inaugural address. It was sad and solemn and beautiful. It ended with these touching words: "With malice towards none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

The words seemed a prayer. Some of the people cheered. Some cried. But his words touched the hearts of all.

The war was drawing to a close. There was no bitterness in Lincoln's great heart. He would be fair to the South. He was anxious to win the hearts of the Southern people.

Grant had been put in command of all the Union armies. He was steadily gaining his wonderful campaign. He was now near Richmond. Lincoln went down to visit him. Mrs. Lincoln and little Tad went with him. The President rode with Grant hour after hour. The soldiers cheered wherever he went.

The Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia faced each other for the last time. Lee's devoted sol-

diers gathered around him. But their cause was lost. Lee had guarded Richmond for four long years. He could guard it no longer.

President Davis and his Cabinet fled. The Union forces took Richmond. Lincoln wanted to see the city. He took little Tad by the hand. Together they walked through the principal streets of the deserted city. There were many negroes in Richmond. They went wild when they saw Lincoln. They knelt at his feet. They touched his coat. He could scarcely walk along. The crowd of grateful negroes was so great.

Lincoln reached the White House of the Confederacy. Jefferson Davis had left it just thirty-six hours before. Lincoln was hot and tired. He sat in a large chair. It was President Davis's chair. He rested there. He thought of the President of the Confederacy. He felt sorry for him.

While sitting there someone said to him: "Davis ought to be shot." Lincoln answered: "Judge not, that ye be not judged."

At night he returned to the army headquarters. He stayed at Grant's headquarters till the morning of Lee's surrender.

It was Sunday. The end of the great Civil War had come. The President and Mrs. Lincoln and little Tad sailed up the Potomac to Washington.

The North went wild with joy when Richmond fell. This great event was celebrated everywhere. Bells were rung. Cannon were fired.

Lincoln did not want the people to do this. He did not want to hurt the feelings of the defeated people.

A band came to serenade Lincoln. He asked them to play Dixie. He wanted to win the hearts of the South. He worked with all his heart for this.

He longed to see the armies on both sides dispersed. He longed to see the soldiers working at their homes.

Lincoln said we would treat the South as though they had never been out of the Union.

CHAPTER XXIV

THE DEATH OF LINCOLN

It was now five days since the war was over. It was Friday, April 14, 1865. Friday morning at breakfast Lincoln and his son, Robert, had a long talk. Robert told many things about Lee's surrender. The President was very much interested in his son's talk. Robert had a picture of Lee. Lincoln took it up. He looked at it. He was thinking.

He said: "It is a good face. It is the face of a noble, brave man. I am glad the war is over at last."

Then he looked at Robert, he said: "Well, my son, you have returned safely from the front. The war is now closed. We will soon live in peace with the brave men who have been fighting against us. I trust that the era of good feeling has returned. I trust that henceforth we shall live together in harmony."

After breakfast the President received some senators. They came to congratulate him. Then he and General Grant went for a drive. They were greeted with delight as they rode along. People cheered them. They clapped their hands. They waved their handkerchiefs.

At noon he held a cabinet meeting. After the meeting he and Mrs. Lincoln took a drive. His heart was filled with joy. He talked of the past. Then he talked of the future.

He said: "Mary, we have had a hard time of it since we came to Washington. But the war is over. With God's blessing we may hope for four years of peace and happiness. Then we will go back to Illinois. We will pass the rest of our lives in quiet."

Later in the afternoon he pardoned a Union soldier. The soldier was to be shot. He was a deserter. Lincoln pardoned him. Then he let a Southern prisoner go.

In the evening the President and Mrs. Lincoln were going to the theater. It was Ford's theater. They were going to see the play, "The American Cousin." General and Mrs. Grant were invited to go with them. But later they found they could not go.

At nine o'clock the President and his party reached the theater. The house was crowded. It was bright with the bright lights and the gay dress of the ladies. Officers in their uniforms were there. Many noted men and women were there.

It was half past ten. The great theater was still. Everyone was looking at the stage. The play was interesting.

A pistol shot rang through the theater. It came from the direction of the President's box. Everyone looked.

Then a man appeared at the front of the box. He held a smoking pistol in one hand. He held a dagger in the other. He sprang to the stage. It was nine feet below. He shouted as he jumped: "Sic semper tyrannis" (So be it always to tyrants).

As he jumped his spur caught in the large flag that draped the box. He fell upon the stage. His leg was broken. He leaped up. A horse stood ready outside the stage door. A boy was holding it. The murderer mounted the horse. He dashed away in the night.

Mrs. Lincoln screamed. Men rushed to the box. The President was lying on the floor. The bullet had gone through his brain. They lifted him up. They carried him out of the theater. They took him to a house across the street.

All night long they watched by Lincoln's bedside. He never regained consciousness. Mrs. Lincoln was crushed with grief. Robert sat by his father's bedside all night. In the morning Abraham Lincoln breathed his last.

Little Tad cried out: "They have killed my Papa-day. They have killed my Papa-day."

The sad news flashed over the country. It shocked the whole nation. It caused great grief. All business stopped. The people stopped to mourn for their dead chief. Strong

men wept. They gathered in groups. They said to one another: "Our President is dead."

Houses and public buildings were draped in black. Flags were lowered at half mast. Messages of sorrow and sympathy came from all over the world.

Kingly honors were paid the dead President. Illinois claimed him. He was their first great man. They begged to have him buried there.

Cities and states begged to honor his body on its way to the grave. The funeral train passed over the same route that Lincoln had followed on his way to Washington four years before. The funeral train was draped in black. People gathered at every station. They stood with bared heads as the train passed by. Arches were placed over the tracks. The train passed under them. By night torches lit up the way of the funeral train.

At last they reached Springfield. Old friends and neighbors received the remains of their beloved friend.

Lovingly they laid him beside little Willie and his other baby son.

His stepmother was alive. But she was not able to attend his funeral.

Today a beautiful monument stands over Lincoln's grave. It was built by loving friends, both black and white.

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